



April 2, 2010

Honorable Mayor Otis S. Johnson and Board of Aldermen  
City of Savannah  
City Hall  
Savannah, GA


For the past fifteen years, I have diligently strived to work with you to make Savannah a better community and to make the City of Savannah a more efficient, effective, and equitable organization. This work is not complete (and will never be completed), but we have achieved fundamental, intergenerational progress in the quality of life of our residents and visitors.

Consequently, the time has come for Linda Lee and me to begin a new chapter in our lives, and I, hereby, resign as City Manager of the City of Savannah. I have accepted the position as County Manager of Arlington, Virginia which will afford Linda Lee and me many opportunities for our family.

As I reflect on Savannah's progress, I am pleased about improvements in Council Priorities including public safety, neighborhood vitality, affordable housing, blight eradication, water resources, drainage and economic development. The City now communicates and engages much more fully and productively with citizens, stakeholders and employees. The City's fiscal health is sound, our budget is balanced and we can, with effort, continue to stay fiscally strong into the future.

I am especially proud of the special projects that will make our community a wonderful place to live and visit in the future. Some of these include: Ellis Square; Forsyth Fort; Baker/Fell Street Park; the Battlefield Park; Trustees Garden; the African-American, Haitian-American, and World War II Memorials; Joe Tribble Park; Dawes Avenue; Williams Ward-Brickyard; Liberty Lake; Tatenville Lake; Coffee Bluff Marina; Bacon Park Tennis Center; Vernon River Park; Mohawk-Peachtree Park; "Pressboy" Adams Park; Cuyler Park; Ashley Homes Park; Habersham Turtle Park; Wilshire-Largo open space and FEMA open spaces.

The esthetics of our City—in all areas—are much improved and are internationally recognized because of historic preservation, tree planting, signage reductions, streetscape beautification and planning. Our history and culture have been enriched because of neighborhood history documentation. The social fabric is stronger due to the anti-poverty initiative and the revamping of the Youth Futures Authority.



The city's economy is much stronger through downtown and commercial development and redevelopment, annexations and infrastructure improvements.

I expect to leave the service of the City as of May 3, 2010. Before that time, I will work with you and City staff to prepare a transition plan so that Council Priorities will continue to be accomplished and that pending projects can continue as smoothly as possible.

In conclusion, I want to truly thank you for the opportunities that we have had in Savannah. Our many accomplishments were based on the devoted and tireless work of my staff and of all City employees who perform work that is often difficult. I want to thank countless individuals in our community who have counseled and assisted me.

Any and all of my accomplishments were based on the love, support and sacrifice of my wife, Linda Lee, and my three children: Brendan, Alex and Rebecca.

I look forward to working with you during this transition process.

Sincerely,



Michael B. Brown